

Was On The Bench 21 Years



THE LATE JUDGE JOHN UPSHUR DENNIS

JUDGE DENNIS IS DEAD

Jurist Served For 31 Years On The
Supreme Bench Of Bal-
timore.

PARALYSIS ENDED HIS LIFE

Appointed By Governor Lloyd In
1887, He Retired In 1902.—Deep
Student And Able Lawyer.

Judge John Upshur Dennis, who for 21 years was a member of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore, died shortly after 6 o'clock last evening at the home of his son, J. Murdoch Dennis, 4215 Green-fay, Guilford. His wife and son and his daughter, Miss Dora L. Dennis, and two sisters, Misses Louise and Charlotte Dennis, of Washington, were with him when he died, as was Arthur E. Anderson, who had been his nurse for six years.

The death of Judge Dennis was the result of a stroke of paralysis that came upon him last Monday. It was the second stroke he had received, the first occurring at the old Athenaeum Club on February 9, 1906. He was ill for a long time after his first stroke, and it was feared at that time that he would die, but he finally recovered both his health and his spirits. The second stroke came upon him without warning. On Sunday last he was in fine spirits and apparently in his usual health, and he spent most of the afternoon motor-ing in the Green Spring Valley with his son. He spent a good night and was apparently well Monday morning. In the afternoon the stroke fell and he never regained consciousness.

Funeral To Be Held Tomorrow.

His funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at 3.30 o'clock from Memorial Protestant Episcopal Church. The Rev. Dr. William M. Dame will conduct the services. Interment will be private. It is expected that practically all the members of the Supreme Bench and many prominent lawyers will attend the services.

Few men had more friends than Judge Dennis or a more varied and extensive acquaintance. He was of that friendly spirit and democratic nature which attracted those with whom he was brought in contact, and he possessed a vast fund of knowledge, which made him at home with everyone with whom he came in touch, no matter what his profession or vocation.

Fishing At Ocean City.

Nothing delighted him more than to sit with the old fishermen at Ocean City, Md., and Wachapreague, Va., and other places where he was accustomed to spend part of his summers, discussing with them the various kinds of fish and their habits and many curious specimens of the Bay tribe.

On one occasion at Ocean City a lady, who knew of Judge Dennis by reputation and who did not know him personally, one day saw him passing the hotel in his fishing clothes, and, turning to a friend, said: "I have seen that fisherman pass this house almost every day and he has an unusually intellectual appearance. Do you know who he is?" She was surprised to learn that the blue flannel shirt, canvas coat, corduroy trousers, gum boots and broad-brimmed straw hat were worn by one of the best-known and best-liked men in Maryland.

He was noted for his thorough reasoning based on wide information and close study of the law, which accounted for the accuracy and discrimination by which he could single out the primary question in a case and as quickly decide it. He was a close student and omnivorous reader in every branch of literature, having in the early days of his law practice spent a great deal of his time in the library of the Maryland Historical Society. He was also a familiar figure at the old Athenaeum Club, of which he was a leading member.

Son Of United States Senator.

Judge Dennis was a son of United States Senator George R. Dennis, and was born June 14, 1846, at Kingstown, Somerset county, Md. He was educated at the old Washington Academy, Princess Anne, Somerset county, and at Princeton, where he graduated in 1865. Subsequently he entered the law school of the University of Virginia, where he graduated in 1868.

After practicing his profession for a short time at Norfolk, Va., and at Princess Anne and at Frederick, Md., he came to Baltimore and, with James Scott, formed the law firm of Dennis & Scott, which existed until the death of Mr. Scott.

Judge Dennis was appointed a member of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City by Gov. Henry Lloyd, succeeding Judge William A. Fisher, who resigned from the bench on January 4, 1887, and the following autumn he was elected on the Democratic ticket without opposition for the full term of 15 years. At that time Judge Dennis was only 41 years old and was the youngest member of the Supreme Bench.

At the expiration of his term, on November 8, 1902, Judge Dennis was appointed by Governor John Walter Smith to fill the interim between the expiration of his term and the election of a successor, which took place in November, 1903, when he was elected to succeed himself. In May, 1906, he retired with Judge Phelps.

In 1881 Judge Dennis married Miss Fannie Murdoch, of Mississippi.

Of Distinguished Ancestry.

Judge Dennis came of a family prominent in the politics and public life in this State, a number of whose members have represented the State in the national Congress and on the bench.

Donock Dennis, son of John Dennis, the first settler of the name, located in Somerset county in 1685. His youngest son, John Dennis, the direct ancestor of Judge Dennis, was one of the judges of the Provincial Court, appointed in 1710. His son, John Dennis, was elected a Representative in Congress in 1797, at the age of 26 years, and was re-elected for five terms. When the House of Representatives was in a deadlock, with Jefferson and Aaron Burr as candidates for the Presidency, Mr. Dennis, who had been a Burr follower, changed to Jefferson, thus bringing about the latter's election.

James U. Dennis, an uncle of Judge Dennis, was a prominent Maryland lawyer, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and of the State Senate. He died in 1800. Samuel K. Dennis, another uncle, was a member of the State Senate from Worcester county. George R. Dennis, father of Judge Dennis, after serving one term in the House of Delegates and two in the Senate of Maryland, was in 1872 elected United States Senator, serving for six years from March 4, 1873.